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Covering Explanation

The history of the Agency's effort in Vietnam is to be prepared in three parts with a supplement.

The Chronicle of Events -

This will be the actual history and will be compiled from the information contained in Appendices A and B. According to the present plan this will be prepared under a classification of SECRET.

(Between the Chronicle and Appendices A and B will exist a "Need-to-Know" wall; only those persons with appropriate clearances and a demonstrated need to know will have access to the detailed reports and debriefings; with their annotated bibliographies and exemplars. Materials of this type which are classified SECRET and have no security holds will be made available with the history and maintained in the files of the Historical Staff, Office of the DCI. Unusual material of higher sensitivity will be maintained in a safe file of the appropriate office; this location will be so indicated in the records and will be available to appropriate individuals with accessibility.)

Appendix A - This will include all debriefings, special reports prepared at the request of the chronicler for consolidation of existing records or documenting aspects of Agency activities not adequately recorded, studies and reports drafted in response to other requirement but satisfying specific needs of this compilation, and other papers of the Agency which bear upon the history of Vietnam (Indochina 1950 to 1954).

Appendix B - Reference materials will be reflected beyond those included in Appendix A. Here will be located extended annotations, pertinent reference notes, exemplars, charts and maps which pertain to documents in Appendix A or relate directly to the Chronicle and are noted therein.

Supplement - This will include reports and generic materials

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## A HISTORY OF CIA ACTIVITIES IN VIETNAM - 1950-1963

### Introduction

- First, the period of reintroduction of clandestine efforts in Vietnam (Indochina) - 1950 to 1953. This will cover the period of OPC and OSO operations and into the assignment of the first over-all Chief of Mission and up to the Dien Bien Phu incident.
- Second, the period of French retrenchment, the Geneva Convention and followup Vietnamese action, and the initial Agency US build-up - 1954 to 1957. This will include the shifting of Agency liaison effort from the French to the Vietnamese, the establishment and conduct of the Saigon Military Mission, the regrouping of Station operations out of the Embassy and USOM (USAID), and the assumption and solidifying of power of the Diem regime.
- Third, the period of Viet Cong quiescence, President Diem's slipping away from his initial position of strength (the denigration of his earlier principles of national improvement in favor of Ngo family pressures and goals), and the expansion of Agency activities - 1957 to 1960. This will cover the termination of liaison with the French, the extension of Agency liaison relationships with the Vietnamese and their growing reliance thereon, the conduct of internal and external bi-lateral operations including the notable expansion of Agency operations in villages, hamlets and along the borders, the utilization of unilateral assets, the increase in support efforts, and the resurgence of Viet Cong attacks in South Vietnam.
- Fourth, the period of rapid Viet Cong growth with its increase in insurgency efforts and para-military deployment, the fall of the Diem regime and the Vietnamese junta assumption of power, the build-up of US military advisory activities, and the relinquishing of Agency control of bi-lateral para-military operations - 1961 to 1964. This will cover the evolution of Viet Cong techniques and procedures, the complementary actions or lack of action on the part of the Government of Vietnam (GVN), the organization of CIDG and its operations, the working relationships with the US military and the Embassy,

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the Taylor Mission and followup interdepartmental efforts to transfer para-military operations from Agency control and direction, the handling of Operation SWITCHBACK, and the status of Agency operations and the support thereof to the beginning of 1964.

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**Listing of Contents**

**Appendix A (& Appendix B)**

**Part I - Conduct of Operations**

Internal Operations - FI/CI  
External Operations - FI/CI  
Third Country Operations - FI/CI  
Liaison - FI  
Political Operations - PP/PW  
Political Action Operations - PA/CA  
Military Operations - PM/GW  
Support Operation  
Station Admin and Support (incl TSD)

**Part II - Special Operations**

A CS  
B TU  
C NPIC

**Part III - Agency Support for Vietnam Operations**

Training  
Logistics  
Communications  
Security  
Medical  
Finance

**Part IV - Contributions Regarding Vietnam to and from Agency Reference, Research and Production Components**

VN Desk - Regular Information Reports, Special reports  
OCI - Analysis and Special Contributions - CI Dailies and Special Reports; OCI rep in Saigon - Briefing Reports, Studies, Responses to Inquiries, VIETNAM JOURNAL  
ONE - National Intelligence Estimates, Post Mortems and Validity Studies  
ORR - Studies in Support of Operations, Map effort  
OBI - NIS

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**Supplement**

**Activities of Unusual Significance to Operations in Vietnam**

**Operation SWITCHBACK  
The Saigon Military Mission  
Utilization of Proprietaries**

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(For use in training or as documentary material for analysis  
and comparison in considering similar type activities.)